

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY



Specialty Program in Alcohol and Drug Abuse
College of Health and Human Services

To: Representative Tedder and House Health Policy Committee Members

From: Tiffany Lee, Associate Professor
Specialty Program in Alcohol and Drug Abuse (SPADA)
Western Michigan University

Re: Proposed House Bill No. 5776

Date: October 2, 2018

I am appreciative of the opportunity to write a letter of support for the proposed House Bill 5776. I am an associate professor in the addiction studies program at Western Michigan University, a licensed professional counselor, and the Vice-Chair of LARA's Health Professional Recovery Committee (HPRC). As Chair of the HPRC Clinical and Policy Sub-Committee, I find the passing of this proposed legislation to be imperative for not only the licensees participating in the Health Professional Recovery Program (HPRP), but for all those in Michigan in need of psychotherapy, diagnosis, and evaluation. The language in this bill supports the continued training and supervision for Licensed Professional Counselors (as required by the accrediting body for counselor education programs, CACREP) especially regarding diagnosis and evaluation. It is essential for the HPRP and all our Michigan communities to have competent LPCs that can select, administer, score and interpret various assessments for mental health, substance use, and co-occurring disorders. Without this proposed legislation which clarifies (but does not expand our scope of practice), I believe we are restricting competent counselors from assisting people who are living (and dying) with conditions that can be effectively addressed and treated by LPCs.

If additional information is requested, please feel free to contact me at 269-387-7321 or at tiffany.lee@wmich.edu. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Tiffany Lee

Tiffany K. Lee, PhD, LPC, CAADC
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Vice-Chair, LARA HPRC